

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 190658 TOSEC 080318
ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /019 R

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O 120110Z AUG 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 190658 TOSEC 080318

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT 4021 ACTION SECSTATE
INFO BONN LONDON MOSCOW PARIS USUN 10 AUG 77

QUOTE

S E C R E T PRETORIA 4021

LIMDIS

LONDON ALSO FOR AMBASSADOR BOWDLER

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MUNC US SF UR
SUBJ: SOVIET DEMARCHE ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT BY SAG

REF: STATE 188207

1. I WAS UNABLE TO SEE FOURIE WHO WAS PREPARING TO DEPART TODAY
WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA FOR LONDON, BUT I SPOKE WITH HIM

SECRET

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PAGE 02 STATE 190658 TOSEC 080318

ON THE PHONE TO ADVISE HIM OF THE SUBJECT OF OUR DEMARCHE.
HE ASKED ME TO SEE DEPUTY SECRETARY (OVERSEAS COUNTRIES
DIVISION, DFA) VAN DALSEN WHO, HE SAID, WOULD REPORT TO
HIM PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR LONDON. FOURIE NOTED THAT
THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR HAD ALREADY BEEN TO SEE VAN DALSEN ON
THE SAME SUBJECT.

2. IN RESPONSE TO OUR CONCERNS, VAN DALSEN REFERRED FIRST TO DEFENCE MINISTER BOTHA'S STATEMENT TO THE PRESS LAST EVENING: "BOTH THE PRIME MINISTER AND SUCCESSIVE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAVE ALREADY EXPLAINED EXTENSIVELY AND ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS THAT NUCLEAR ENERGY IN SOUTH AFRICA WILL BE USED FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES ONLY. I HAVE NOTHING MORE TO ADD." VAN DALSEN SAID HE WONDERED WHERE THE SOVITS HAD GOTTEN THE "ROMANTIC NOTION" ABOUT A KALAHARI TEST SITE. HE PRESUMED THEY WERE PREPARING FOR SOME INITIATIVE AT THE LAGOS ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE LATER THIS MONTH. VAN DALSEN ALSO SAID THAT THE GERMAN DEMARCHE HAD MADE REFERENCE TO A SOVIET ALLEGATION THAT SOUTH AFRICA WAS RECEIVING OUTSIDE, NAMELY NATO, ASSISTANCE FOR ITS NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT. VAN DALSEN STATED SOUTH AFRICA WAS PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF PROCEEDING ON ITS OWN. ASKING RHETORICALLY WHAT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD DO WITH A NUCLEAR WEAPON, HE REPEATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT'S INTEREST IN NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT RELATED EXCLUSIVELY TO PEACEFUL USES.

3. THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR INFORMS US THAT VAN DALSEN HAD GIVEN HIM A SIMILAR RESPONSE.
NELSON.
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER".

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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